



Opening Ceremony

BY TISH DAHMEN

Wave Editor

1-17-01

Western performing artists entertained between 100 and 150 international athletes at the Nordic Fest's opening ceremonies held Thursday evening, Jan. 11, at the Wasatch High School auditorium.

Officials from SLOC and the International Ski Federation were also on hand to review Wasatch County's ability to "put on a show" for the upcoming 2002 Olympics.

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Wave photos by Tish Dahmen

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BY PAUL JACOBS
Guest Commentary

The most ethical presidential administration in U.S. history was:
(a) The George Washington Administration (1789-1797).
(b) The Thomas Jefferson Administration (1801-1809).

(c) Either the First (1885-89) or the Second (1897-1897) Grover Cleveland Administration.

(d) The William Jefferson Clinton Administration (1992-2000).

If you said "not (d), anyway," give yourself a gold star.

Yet such was Mr. Clinton's pledge eight years ago: that he would supply us with the most ethical administration in our history.

Perhaps it depends on what the meaning of "ethical" is.

For philosophers, ethics pertains to the nature of right and wrong human choices. To be ethical involves, first, knowing what is right, then-and this part is crucial-actually doing what is right. So, suppose you are able to do the right thing as you know it (for example, to be honest, kind, straightforward) but instead you do the wrong thing (are deceitful, mean, manipulative). That would be wrong. Ordinary people tend to agree with the deep thinkers on this one. Morality means doing the right things, not the wrong things.

Career politicians, however, are a breed apart. Too often what matters to them is not right and wrong but the appearance of right and wrong. In order to demonstrate ethical well-being, then, one must merely avoid apparent impropriety.

It's a complicated theory, but the bottom line is that if you can get away with it, it goes. And maybe on those grounds Mr. Clinton has indeed pulled off the most ethical administration in U.S. history. (Well, perhaps it depends on what the meaning of "get-away-with" is.)

I don't want to rehearse all the scandals and lies, all the investigations and

years to Bill Clinton's office, back to that Brand seeming to do the right at least number two or three presidential agenda.

It is the new chief executive in office, January 21, 1993, "called on his White House to uphold the highest possible standards and to put the American people ahead of politics," according to the president, "than an hour after assuming office, President Clinton issues an executive order requiring government employees to undergo government agency ethics training years after leaving office, the appearance of improper conduct. Ethics, as Bill Clinton

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the word.

Well, that was then and now. The patina of ethical purity has been bit over the past eight years, well scrub it off entirely; a one more violation of the code of this late date? So now, in